

Predators

What animals do you think prey on the Mallard duck?

Hawk



it will swoop down on ducklings

Cat

Will hunt at any time of the day for ducklings. Cats will also kill adult female ducks sitting on nests.



Stoat



Will hunt ducklings and eat eggs and like the cat, will kill adult female ducks sitting on eggs.



Rat

Will eat eggs

Pukeko



Photo courtesy of: J Dyer, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

How do we control Predators?

Unfortunately we are unable to protect ducks from all predators, but we can target two of them – rats and stoats.

This is a DOC 200 trap. It has a tunnel system so that weka can't stretch in and get the egg that is used for bait.

These traps have to be checked regularly and the predators removed from them so they can be reset and ready to use again.

You will need an adult to help you set one of these traps as they are very strong.

Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation Hokitika



This is a Good Nature Trap. What is different about this trap from the DOC 200, is it is able to kill up to 24 stoats or rats before it needs human attention. This is done by a canister of CO₂ which is used to power a rod that is activated when the stoat or rat puts its head up into the device. It will re-load itself ready for the next predator. Take a look:



[Click here to play: https://youtu.be/YnTk4V6d0cQ](https://youtu.be/YnTk4V6d0cQ)